

Edwards Secures \$350,000 to Help Johnson County Law Enforcement Fight Drug Crime & Improve Communications Technology As Bill Passes House: \$200,000 for STOP, \$150,000 for Cleburne PD

(WASHINGTON, DC) - Congressman Chet Edwards announced that he has secured funding that will help Johnson County law enforcement crack down on drug crime and improve communications technology in the 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations bill, which passed the House today.

Local law enforcement efforts to slow the spread of illegal drugs in Johnson County under the Stop the Offender Program (STOP) will be funded by the \$200,000 included by Edwards in the bill. STOP is an undercover joint law enforcement effort whose objective is to stop the spread of drugs in Johnson County. When this bill becomes law, Edwards will have secured \$688,000 since 2005 for the STOP program.

"As the father of two young sons, I am deeply committed to doing everything possible to protect our children from the devastation of illegal drugs," said Edwards, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. "These funds will help our law enforcement officers continue their work to arrest drug dealers, and send a clear message that drug crime will not be tolerated in Johnson County," said Edwards, a senior member of the Appropriations Committee.

Sheriff Bob Alford said, "I greatly appreciate Congressman Edwards and his staff for all the hard

work that went into obtaining this funding. We will utilize this funding in a fiscally responsible manner for the purpose of exposing and apprehending those who engage in organized and violent crime as well as those trafficking in illegal narcotics. The Special Crimes Unit of Johnson County has become an essential tool that complements other law enforcement efforts and has proven to have a positive impact on the quality of life of our law abiding citizens."

Adam King, STOP Commander said, "This funding will allow us to continue supporting our local law enforcement agencies with specialized investigative assistance and will allow us to do so in a safe and effective manner. We owe Congressman Edwards and his staff a big 'thank you' for their support."

Edwards also secured \$150,000 to help the Cleburne Police and Fire Departments install a wireless network to improve communications technology and better access critical records. The wireless network can also be used by other city departments. This would allow Patrol Officers to have faster responses to calls, increase the amount of time officers are actually in their vehicles on the streets, and increase officer safety by providing instant access to information.

"I believe we have an obligation to work closely with local law enforcement to protect our families from criminals. This new equipment will help our officers respond more quickly to emergency calls with the information they need to protect our families," said Edwards, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Cleburne Police Chief Terry Powell said, "During these difficult economic times, Congressman Edwards has continued to provide support to our community. The enhanced technology will allow for more efficient police service to the citizens of Cleburne. Officers of the Cleburne Police Department will have faster access to information regarding wanted persons and stolen property, as well as information regarding open calls for service. Faster access to information will allow for more effective policing. This technology will also provide an increased level of safety for our police officers on the streets. We are thankful to Congressman Edwards for all he does for law enforcement and our community."

The bill must still pass the Senate and be signed by the President.